

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Linda W. Cropp
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: November 6, 2002

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Universal School Access
Amendment Act of 2002"

REFERENCE: Bill Number 14-261

Conclusion

Funds are not sufficient in the FY 2003 through FY 2006 budget and financial plan to implement the Universal School Access Amendment Act of 2002. This Act would cost \$500,000 in FY/SY 2003, and \$18,062,282 million from FY/SY 2003 through FY/SY 2006.

Background

The Universal School Access Amendment Act of 2002 would provide access to pre-kindergarten classes for every child aged three and four who resides in the District. During FY/SY 2002, 4,300 children were enrolled in DCPS pre-kindergarten programs. DCPS would execute a pilot program of the plan during FY/SY 2004 by enrolling a sample group of four year-old children. It is estimated that universal access to pre-kindergarten would enroll 5,000 three and four year old children in FY/SY 2005 and 6,000 three and four year old children in FY/SY 2006.

Financial Plan Impact

This bill provides access to public pre-school for all three and four year olds that reside in the District. Currently, approximately 4,300 children's parents have chosen to enroll them in DCPS pre-kindergarten classes. The FY/SY 2003 allocation per pre-kindergarten student is approximately \$7,500, and could increase approximately 7.5% per year.

Because the bulk of the pre-kindergarten program is already included in the DCPS budget, costs are incurred by DCPS for the additional students who take advantage of universal access. DCPS would need approximately \$500,000 in FY/SY 2003 to plan for universal access, and just over \$2 million in FY 2004 for a pilot of 250 youth for the universal program. It is estimated that universal access to pre-kindergarten would enroll 5,000 three and four year old children in FY 2005 at a total cost of just over \$6.1 million and 6,000 three and four year old children in FY 2006 at a total cost of \$9.4 million.

The following chart shows the estimated program costs.

Estimated Cost of Administering The Universal School Access Amendment Act of 2002					
Item	FY/SY 2003	FY/SY 2004	FY/SY 2005	FY/SY 2006	4-Year Total
Access to pre-kindergarten for three and four year olds	\$ 500,000	\$ 2,034,438	\$ 6,123,657	\$ 9,404,187	\$ 18,062,282